



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Snake Cactus or Pitayita

Morengaya (Echinocereus) pensilis

DESCRIPTION: This interesting cactus is a close relative of our hedgehog cacti. Growing on mountainsides in the Cape Region of Baja California, it is well adapted to hanging pot culture. Flowers are around 2” long and somewhat tubular, with a rich red-orange color.

RECOMMENDED USE: This lends itself well to pot culture. Pieces that break off can easily be rooted. It can be grown in a rock garden if kept out of afternoon sun.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Marginally hardy around Tucson (to around 25°F with overhead protection).



Sun tolerance: Light shade is necessary to promote healthy growth and good form. It can adapt to full sun, but afternoon summer sun should be avoided. Too much shade will lead to poor flowering and lanky growth.



Watering and feeding: Water thoroughly every 5 to 10 days during warm weather. Use a weak solution of fertilizer several times during this time for containerized plants.



Soil requirements: For pots, use cactus potting mix, or add coarse sand to standard potting soil. In the ground, it does well in well-drained soil.



Pruning: Not necessary.